Leon's account of Post-War Da
in Germany, 1945

Sapulpan Tells Of Wars Final Days In Europe

A story of the war's climax in Europe is told by S/Sgt. W. Leon Updike of this city in the following letter written to E. W. Redding.

May 31, 1945

Dear E. W.:

I have been intending to write you for a long time, but they have been keeping us plenty busy for the past few months. I want to thank you for your nice letter and Easter greeting card. I certainly was glad to get them and it was nice of you to remember me.

Things have been quiet around here since the war ended, and we are now enjoying a little rest, and its sure different from the kind of life that we have been leading. We feel like a bunch of retired fire horses. At the present time we are part of the occupation forces in Bavaria, which is the southern part of Germany, near the Austrian border.

I am in the town of Nue Otting, which is a nice little town. At the present time we are just occupying the country and maintaining order. So far we haven't had any disturbances to amount to anything. Its a wonder there isn't more, as the German soldiers are being released from the P.W. cages and are drifting back to their homes.

The American government authorities are pretty strict on the civilians and the rules are rigidly enforced. There is a curfew for them at 9 o'clock, and they really clear the streets. The Germans seem glad that the Americans are occupying the sector instead of the Russians.

If there is one thing that a German dreads, that is a Russian. They will clear the streets when a Russian soldier walks down the street.

We can't have anything to do with the Germans, because of the non-fraternization rule. It will cost you $65 if you are caught even saying good morning to them.

Followed Patton

About six weeks before the war was over we changed from the

enth army to Gen. Patton's third army and just in time to accompany him on several of his long dashes, and the way that man drives! He caught them off balance and never stopped pounding them.

We went night and day, and we stopped about a week before Armistice, for the reason that we ran out of Germans to fight. It was quite an experience to follow Gen. Patton, he wouldn't stop at anything. One night he took us through the Bavarian Alps through a violent snow storm, and then across flooded rivers.

The Germans were surrendering so fast that we soon stopped bothering with them, just disarmed them and left them on the road. The PW's and Slave Laborers were freed by the thousands. It was like watching a three-ring circus to see the climax of this war.

They haven't told us yet what we will do, and we know it will be one of two things. We will either stay here, as occupation forces, or go to the Pacific. They have been given us sight-seeing tours, which are pretty nice.

I saw Berchengaden (Hitler's mountain retreat) and it was pretty nice—or I should say was nice, as the American dive bombers really worked it over. I have also seen Goerring's art loot, it was valued at $200,000,000 and its a wonderful sight to see, all the valuable art treasures are from all over Europe. There are a number of interesting places to see and I hope to see most of them before I leave here.

Fun Fishing

We are having a lot of fun fishing in these streams. There are plenty of brooks and rainbow trout and we have been having some fair luck. The woods are full of deer, but they won't let us shoot them now. We were really having some nice venison steaks for awhile.

There is plenty of beer here, but it isn't much good. It's awfully weak tasting stuff. We have been promised some American beer, if it ever gets here.

We are living in nice homes now.

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June 30, the president will face